



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Rep. Michelle Ugenti (R-Scottsdale, Dist. 23)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMITTEE ADOPTS AMBULANCE SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Dec. 23, 2013) – The Ambulance Medical Service Transportation Study Committee, chaired by Rep. Michelle Ugenti, R-Scottsdale, adopted recommendations for legislation to increase transparency and efficiency in the process for awarding a certificate of necessity (CON) to provide emergency medical transportation services in Arizona. CONs are awarded by the Department of Health Services and are required to operate an ambulance service in Arizona.

During the four hearings the committee held, members learned that ambulance providers receive mileage reimbursement ranging from \$9.32 to \$22.00 per mile and, in addition, receive a reimbursement for the transport of a patient from as low as \$469.35 per transport to as high as \$2,051.30 per transport. Testimony also revealed that the time frame to process an application for a CON is 450 days - longer in some cases - and that Arizona taxpayers paid \$82 million for Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) patient transports in 2012. Total AHCCCS reimbursements (state and federal monies) account for approximately 25 percent of all ambulance revenues.

As a result, the Committee adopted several recommendations including; reducing the time period to process an application, requiring audited financial statements from a CON applicant and extending the length of time an emergency CON is valid. The committee also recommended that there be greater public input in the evaluation of an application and for public input to occur earlier in the process.

“Reliable ambulance service is critical to maintaining quality patient care and I would like to thank the committee members for the effort they put in to developing these recommendations,” Ugenti said.

Members of the committee included representatives for private ambulance providers, fire districts, the director of the Department of Health Services, the director of the AHCCCS, the insurance industry and the public.

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